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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,549	10/27/2003	Birgit Burg	2006-249/H05138	2417
55495	7590	05/16/2008	EXAMINER	
PAUL & PAUL 2000 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-3229			OGDEN JR, NECHOLUS	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1796				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/16/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/694,549	BURG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit Necholus Ogden 1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4-29-2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The aforementioned claim states "over the entire circumference of the tablet", wherein said phrase is not supported by the specification, where the skilled artisan could reasonably place this phrase in the possession of the inventors at the time the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al (6,548,473).

5. Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al disclose a multi-layer detergent tablet having both a compressed and non-compressed portion comprising, in the non-compressed portion of said multi-layered tablet, at least 0.01% of a surfactant (col. 14, lines 54061) and in particular anionic surfactants such as linear alkyl benzene sulfonate (col. 21, lines 32-42). Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al further disclose the inclusion of builders in an amount from 10-80% by weight (co. 27, lines 41-50) and the at least one non-compressed portion of the detergent tablet is equal to or less than the compressed mold portion of the tablet (col. 51, lines 11-25). Jacques Kamiel Thoen further teaches that the viscosity of an ingredient in the non-compressed phase, which comprises surfactants, gallants, builders and other adjunct material, is 50 to 100,000 cps (column 12, lines 60-63).

Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al do not specifically teach that said phase is a viscoelastic phase having storage modulus of between 40,000 and 800,000 Pa and a phase shift in the range of 0 to 30 degrees Celsius.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to expect the compositions of Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al to comprise a storage modulus or phase shift as claimed in the non-compressed layer because Jacques Kamiel Thoen et al teaches the use of alkyl benzene sulfonates as surfactants that may be used in the non-compressed phase of the tablet composition and the skilled artisan would expect similar properties, in the absence a showing to the contrary. Furthermore, the court held "it is not necessary in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness . . . that there be a suggestion or expectation from the prior art that the claimed [invention] will have the

same or a similar utility as one newly discovered by applicant," and concluded that here a *prima facie* case was established because "[t]he art provided the motivation to make the claimed compositions in the expectation that they would have similar properties." *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 693, 16 USPQ2d 1901 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4-29-2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Thoen et al do not teach or suggest a three-layered tablet with a viscoelastic phase placed between the two-tabletted layers.

7. The examiner contends and respectfully disagrees because Thoen et al specifically teach that said detergent composition is in the form of a multilayered tablet (column 14). Thoen et al specifically discloses that said tablet is prepared by having a compressed portion in a plurality of molds. The plurality of molds is filled with a non-compressed, non-encapsulating portion (col. 52, lines 47-54) using a modified tablet press comprising modified upper and lower punches. The upper and lower punches of the modified tablet press are modified such that the compressed portion provides one or more indentations, which form the molds to which the one non-compressed portion is delivered (col. 51, lines 54-55). Therefore, it can be seen that Thoen et al teaches that said multi-layered tablet is formed with at least three layers and said layers comprise compressed layers and a non-compressed layers. Accordingly, the claims are suggested by the prior art of record.

8. Applicant further argues that Thoen do not suggest a viscoelastic phase tablet.

9. The examiner contends that the term "viscoelastic", according to applicant's specification, is a phase that exhibits both viscous and elastic behavior (see page 3, lines 31-33). Therefore, as applicants working examples employ a plethora of ingredients that constitute the "viscoelastic phase", Thoen clearly suggest many of these ingredients, when combined would clearly read on a viscoelastic phase as broadly defined by the claims and suggested by the specification.

Applicant further argues that Thoen does not suggest tabletted layers in contact with a viscoelastic phase.

The examiner contends that Thoen clearly suggest multi-layer tablets and clearly suggest a non-compressed phase which reads on applicants viscoelastic phase, in the absence of a showing to the contrary, wherein it would have been in the purview of the artisan of ordinary skill in the art to expect the non-compressed phase and the compressed layers are in contact with one another.

*An obviousness determination is not the result of a rigid formula disassociated from the consideration of the facts of a case. Indeed, the common sense of those skilled in the art demonstrates why some combinations would have been obvious where others would not. See KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. __, 2007 WL 1237837, at *12 (2007).*

Applicant argues that the entire circumference of the tablet comprises a visible viscoelastic phase and Thoen does not teach this limitation nor would it be obvious to modify his teachings.

The examiner contends, that when applicant's amended phrase is read in its broadest and most reasonable context, the amended phrase may be construed as any layer being visible including a layer that is comprised of compressed and non-compressed material as long as it is "visible". Therefore, the claim may be construed as visible layers which are defined as "layers being seen" over the entire circumference of the tablet, which may include but not limited to coloration or markings which define layers; indentations or embossing, all of which would have been obvious to the tablets suggested by Thoen.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Necholus Ogden whose telephone number is 571-272-1322. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Necholus Ogden/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796

5-12-2008